In regard to your suggestion to authorise the Mahomedan Inspector to dispose of matters relating to Mahomedan schools, his recommendations can only be disposed of by his superior officers until he gains more experience.

Your other suggestions will be considered.

103 Education.

Mr. P. Chellasami Chinnanania Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) said that the people of Shencottah were deeply indebted to the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja for raising the standard of the English School, Shencottah, by opening Forms IV, V and VI in three successive years. In the whole taluk that was the only English school. As the strength of the school was steadily progressing, it was all the more necessary to have a lower grade English school as a feeder to it. A lower grade school might therefore be opened under departmental management at Ayikudi, situated in the midst of several flourishing Travancore villages, and only 8 miles distant from Shencottah. The opening of the lower grade English school would remove a long-felt want and would bring English education within the reach of all in the taluk. He added that the local inhabitants were quite ready to provide the necessary buildings and premises required for the purpose.

In regard to vernacular school education, he stated that it was very backward in the taluk and that the causes for the same should be looked into and removed and vernacular education placed on a sound basis. According to the Member, the backwardness was due to the circumstance that Tamil was the mother tongue of the people while Malayalam was the language taught in the school. Hence, it was highly necessary that Tamil should be taught in all the schools of the Shencottah taluk. Tamil should also be the medium of instruction and examinations should be conducted in Tamil, and instruction in Tamil must be made compulsory in the whole taluk. He further pointed out that, as the Court language was Malayalam, the parties, who were Tamilians, were not able to understand Malayalam, and made horrible mistakes. In order to avoid such occurrences, it was imperative that the Court language in the Shencottah taluk should be Tamil.

For the benefit of the large number of children who never attended a school, the Member also suggested that the Government might open an industrial school with agriculture, weaving and carpentry as the subjects to be taught.

Dewan's reply.—With regard to your proposal to start a lower grade English school at Ayikudi, the matter will be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for investigation and remarks. If I may throw out a suggestion, I would ask you to start an aided school, as it can be accomplished much more quickly than a departmental school, since you say you are prepared to meet the expenditure on this account. Government will of course sanction the necessary grant.

I was not aware of the fact that Tamil is not taught in the vernacular schools in the Shencottah taluk. In the southern taluks of the State, Tamil is also taught. It is there optional either to read Tamil or Malayalam. Some such arrangement should be made in the Shencottah taluk also. The matter will be looked into.

It is not thought desirable to make Tamil a Court language. The question of introducing more than one Court language is a complicated and difficult one. But in fairness to the people of Shencottah taluk, facilities will be created for imparting instruction in Tamil in the schools there.

In regard to the industrial school, it is part of a problem the solution of which will take some time.

104. The present system of education, its defects and remedies.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappilla (Member, Tiruvalla Taluk) referred to the reports of the Education Expenditure Committee and the Vernacular Curricula Revision Committee and thanked the Government for their decision to convene

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